



BLUE BEEBLE

12¢

NO. 3
OCT.



THE MOOD IS MADNESS WHEN THE
BLUE BEETLE MIXES IT WITH THE
MADMEN!



RETAILERS: SEE PAGE 28 FOR
SPECIAL DISPLAY ALLOWANCE PLAN

EXCLUSIVE FUN PRODUCTS *by mail*



TRICK BASEBALL

It bounces, cockeyed, it curves, it dips, it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block chasing after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce of this amazing baseball.
No. 4020 50¢

1001 things for FREE!



A list what tells you where to send for free samples. Books, foreign stamps, coins, maps, snowglobes, toys, films, posters, etc. They are yours for the asking. Hundreds of \$\$\$ worth of free offers.
* \$1000 only 50¢
* 1954 for only \$1.00



X-RAY SPEX

A wonderful illusion to fool your buddies. Put them on, now is that really his skull you see inside his head? Prove to him you can see through anything.
No. 7014 \$1.00



JOY BUZZER

Snake hands and watch your friend jump 6 feet high. Completely harmless.
No. 7005 50¢



BIKE SPEEDOMETER

Now you can tell how fast you are going. Registers speeds up to 50 miles per hour. New built-in compass also shows in what direction you are travelling. Fits any bicycle. Attaches in seconds.
No. 3017 only 75¢



A MINIATURE MARVEL

Bigger than a small matchbox, but it pulls in newscasts, musical programs and sporting events — there are no batteries, no tubes to wear out! It's the most economical radio imaginable. So inconspicuous, it comes with an ear-deck for personal listening.
No. 7191 (World's Tiniest Radio) \$1.25



LOUD NOSE BLOWER

Blow your nose and it will sound like the roof caved in. Fits right in your handkerchief out of sight.
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GROW LIVE MONSTERS

SCARIEST LIVING Sensation of the century. 2 Monsters in full colour. Comes complete with space astronomer and full accessory kit. Will grow green monster hair right before your eyes. Complete kit.
No. 8001 Only \$2.00



MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2 1/2 ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time exposure shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.
\$1.00
6 Rolls Film 75¢



PEPPER GUM

Hi Pak, have a piece of gum. Once he starts chewing you better have a glass of water ready. Completely harmless but a million laughs. No. 6008 15¢



SILVER SKULL RING

Heavy Mexican silver ring with the raised face of skull and inlaid red ruby eyes. Feels good and looks real impressive. Adds zelt to your hands.
No. 3018 \$1.00



FLY IN ICE

A plastic ice cube that looks like the real thing, only with a fly inside. Just place this in someone's drink when he can't look up.
No. 3011 only 45¢



SPIDER RING

This jumbo Rubber Spider with moving eyes comes attached to an adjustable metal ring and is sure to scare everybody. Large size 4 1/2" x 1 1/2". Made of flexible rubber.
No. 4006 only 45¢



This is one of the most popular books on the art of self defense. Now you needn't back away from anyone. Many illustrations show you how to defend yourself from bullies. We also include FREE a book on strong man stunts.
No. 4003 only \$1.00



SURPRISE PACKAGE

If you are willing to take a chance, we guarantee you more than your money's worth filled with surprises.
No. 8002 50¢



FRANKSTER WHISTLE

Greatest gag in years. Just place inside any tail-pipe and watch the fun. As soon as he starts the car it will sound as if the whole motor fell out. It's a punk, but completely harmless.
No. 702 25¢



TRICK BLACK SOAP

Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror he'll be shocked. Harmless.
No. 681 Only 25¢

REGENCY MAIL ORDER DEPT. 5 GKB BOX 826 NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. 14302

RUSH ME THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return any part of my purchase after the 10 day free trial for full refund.

ITEM NO.	NAME OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

I enclose order plus 15% postage and shipping in cash (check or money order).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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the BLUE BEETLE

PLOTTED & DRAWN BY:
STEVE DITKO

SCRIPT BY:
D.C. GLANZMAN

LETTERED BY:
BOB AGNEW

A REIGN OF FEAR AND MADNESS IS CREATED BY THE MADMEN



THE TIME: 2:30 P.M.
THE PLACE: AN ALLEY
IN HUB CITY...

LET'S GO, MADMEN!
IT'S TIME FOR US
TO GET TO WORK...
AT THE BANK!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE
WITHDRAWING MONEY
OTHER PEOPLE
DEPOSIT!

THIS IS A FRIENDLY
WARNING! DON'T
ANYONE TRY
ANYTHING AND
NO ONE WILL
GET HURT!

DON'T BOTHER TO HELP! WE
LIKE TO DO THIS PART OUR-
SELVES! IT MAKES US FEEL
WE'RE EARNING
THE MONEY WE
TAKE!

THE BUGS ANTENNA PUT
A FIX ON A GUN SHOT
AND THERE'S A BANK
IN THIS AREA! WITH
THIS WEATHER IT
CAN ONLY BE
THE MADMEN!

THIS GUY'S NOT
HERE TO MAKE
A DEPOSIT --
THROW HIM
OUT!

WELL, THEY'RE READY
FOR ANYTHING! I'LL
SAY THAT
FOR THEM...

...BUT EXPECTING THE UN-
EXPECTED IS ALSO PART
OF MY PROFESSION. WELL,
BADMEN, HOW DID I
HANDLE THAT?



LATER, AT THE MADMEN'S HIDEOUT!

ALL THE GUN DOES IS HUM! WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IS IT, ANYWAY?

THERE MUST BE SOME SPECIAL WAY TO FIRE IT... BUT HOW?



WELL, IT'S USELESS TO US, FLEETER, WE SHOULD LAY LOW...

IDIOT! I'LL DO THE THINKING! SOON EVERYONE WILL KNOW WE HAVE THIS GUN BUT THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF DOING! THAT MAKES IT THE MOST DEADLY WEAPON THERE IS!



EVERYONE WHO FACES THIS GUN WILL BE OVERCOME BY THE HORROR OF WHAT IT MIGHT DO TO THEM! WAIT AND SEE!



THE BLUE BEETLE SHOULD BE ARRESTED FOR CARRYING A WEAPON. HE DOESN'T HAVE A LICENSE!

I HEARD ITS SOUND DRIVES MEN INSANE!

NOW, NO ONE IS SAFE! THAT GUN IS A DEATH RAY!



YES, COULDN'T YOU CALL THE PAPERS AND TELL THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GUN?

THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! NO, THE ONLY WAY IS TO GET THE GUN BACK MYSELF!



LOOK AFTER MY LAB, TRACEY. THE BLUE BEETLE HAS TO BE READY TO MOVE QUICKLY!

I'M SURE THE MADMEN WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF POSSESSING MY GUN AND STRIKE AGAIN... SOON!



A SHORT TIME LATER AT A SAVINGS BANK ...

THAT NOISE! IT'S THE BEETLE GUN! DON'T SHOOT!

DON'T DISINTEGRATE US! DON'T FIRE!

HA HA HA!



HA HA, NO ONE EVEN DARES TO LOOK DEFIANT!

TURN THE GUN OFF! TAKE THE MONEY AND GO!



ANYONE WHO TURNS AROUND BEFORE WE'RE OUT OF HERE, I'LL FIRE AT FULL POWER AND...



CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

PLAY GUITAR IN 7 DAYS OR YOUR MONEY BACK



Surprise your friends and relatives.
Enjoy lots of fun and popularity. Be
the one who always gets
invited to parties.

Top Radio Guitarist
Ed Sale has shown
thousands of people
throughout the
country how to
play the Guitar
like professionals. He
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quickly and easily — even
though you have absolutely
no previous musical
knowledge whatever.



MAIL COUPON TODAY!

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the first day, and any song by ear or note in
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- Guaranteed to receive 30 stations in your area
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Woman, Girl and Boy

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MONEY-BACK
GUARANTEE

ACTUAL
SIZE

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GAYCRAFT, Dept. R8-RA
Box 826, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Please rush on 10 day Free Trial the World's Smallest
Radio. I must be 100% satisfied or my money will
be refunded in full after 10 days.

Name

Address

City Zone State

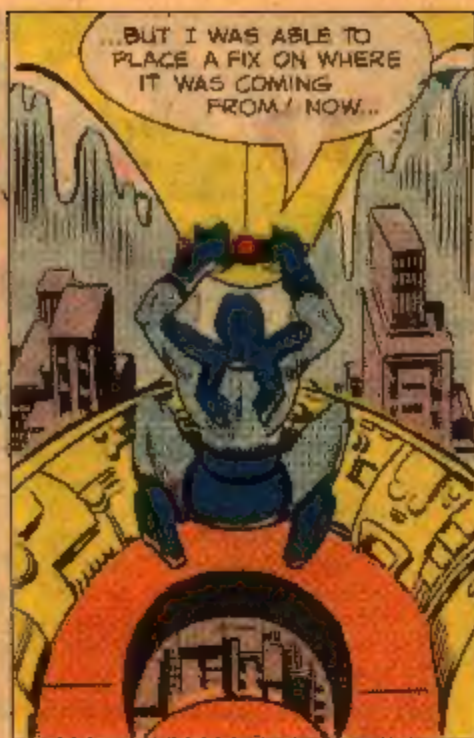
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GAYCRAFT, BOX 826, NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.



THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET TOO FAR... I CAN STILL GET ANOTHER CRACK AT THEM!



NO SIGN OF THEM! HOW DO THOSE MADMEN GET AWAY SO FAST?



I'LL CRUISE AROUND FOR AWHILE! THEY MAY HAVE PLANNED A SERIES OF ROBBERIES... ONE AFTER ANOTHER!



MEANWHILE, BELOW IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING...

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING GOING INTO DAN GA--



DAN GARRET! IT'S YOU! BUT WHAT HAPPENED?

HI, IKE. I HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT WHILE I WAS AWAY! I'M OKAY NOW!



Hmm. I WONDER IF I SHOULD TELL LT. FISHER, DAN'S BACK? HE WAS MIGHTY ANXIOUS TO SEE HIM LAST TIME HE TALKED TO ME!



MIKE, I THINK YOUR HUNCH IS RIGHT. THE MADMEN ARE REALLY THE OLD FLEETER MOB WITH A NEW TWIST!

AND THEY'D COMPLETELY DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT!



SEE IF YOU CAN GET A NEW LINE ON THEM!

LT. FISHER, CALL FOR YOU!



IKE COLAR. YES! WHAT! DAN GARRET! YOU'RE SURE IT'S HIM? AND HE WENT OUT AGAIN! OKAY, I'LL HAVE SOMEONE OVER THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



THE COMMENTATORS ARE HAVING A FIELD DAY WITH YOU AND YOUR MISSING GUN!

I'M NOT SURPRISED! WELL, LET'S SEE HOW MUCH WORK I CAN GET DONE BEFORE TOMORROW!

CLICK!

AND THE PROTESTS MOUNT DEMANDING THAT ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST THE BLUE BEETLE!

HA HA! PEOPLE WOULD RATHER FIGHT A GOOD GUY THEY THINK IS GOING BAD THAN STAND UP TO SOMEONE THEY KNOW IS ROTTEN!

I SAY BRAND THE BEETLE AN OUTLAW!

NO ONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD STAND UP TO THAT GUN - IT'S TOO DEADLY!

WHAT KIND OF FIEND IS HE?

EARLY THE NEXT DAY...

I'M ON MY WAY! I'LL STAY IN TOUCH, TRACEY!

THAT TAKES CARE OF THE BARRIER, NOW TO OPEN THE RIVER WALL DOOR!

THE CONTROL SHOWS IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT! AND NOW TO CLOSE THE WALL DOOR.

ANOTHER WET DAY, I HOPE IT'S STILL THE MADMEN'S FAVORITE KIND OF WEATHER!

AND SURE ENOUGH AT A FEDERAL BANK.

NO! NO! TURN IT OFF!

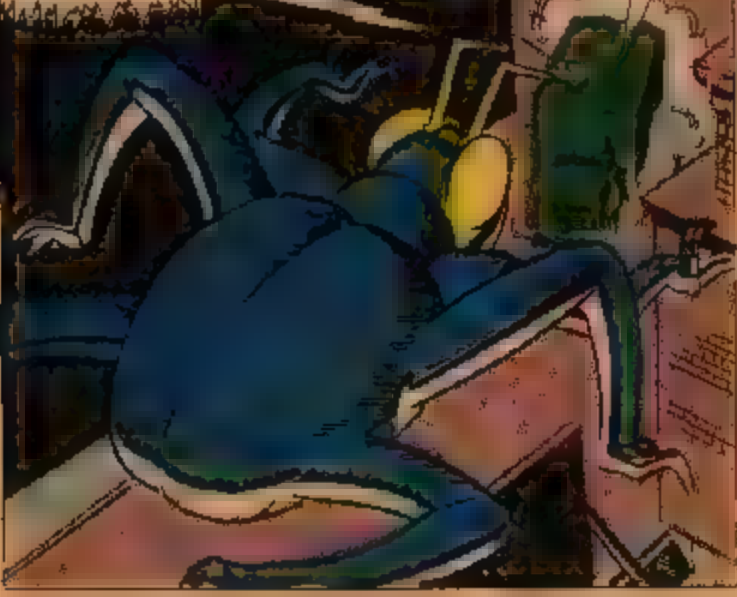
GOT A WEAK SIGNAL NOW IT'S CUT OFF! BUT I HAVE A FIX ON IT IT'S UPTOWN!

TOO BAD I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN CLOSER... THEY HAVE A BIG LEAD!

THEY'RE PILING INTO THAT TRUCK! SO THAT'S HOW THEY GET AWAY!

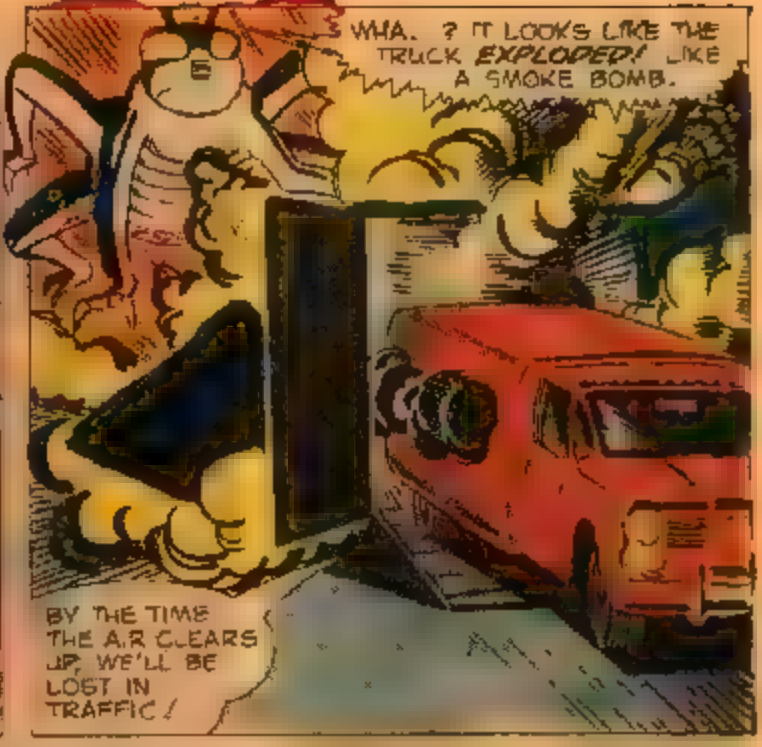
NOW THAT THEY'RE ALL
IN ONE NEAT BUNDLE
THE BUG CAN WRAP
THEM UP
SECURELY!

IT'S THE **BEETLE**, QUICK!
YOU ALL KNOW WHAT TO
DO! **MOVE!**



WHA. ? IT LOOKS LIKE THE
TRUCK **EXPLODED!** LIKE
A SMOKE BOMB.

BY THE TIME
THE A.R. CLEARS
UP, WE'LL BE
LOST IN
TRAFFIC!



THERE'S NO ONE DOWN
THERE. THEY GAVE
ME THE SLIP
AGAIN!



I'VE BLOWN TOO MANY CHANCES.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE IT
GOOD THE NEXT TIME... IF
THERE IS A NEXT TIME.



MEANWHILE THE FAMOUS
HISTORIAN, PROFESSOR LOMA HAS
A CALLER

HERE IS THE
DATA YOU
WANTED
DAN.

THANKS PROFESSOR!
YOU'LL GET A
COMPLETE REPORT
ON EVERYTHING!



I'LL GO OVER THIS
MATERIAL WHILE MY
ARM IS HEALING.
I'LL SEE YOU
BEFORE I LEAVE!

IF THERE'S
ANYTHING ELSE
LET ME
KNOW!



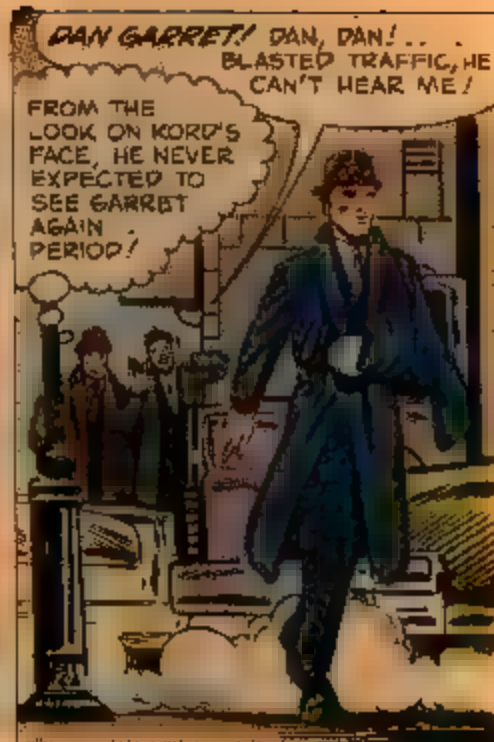
DAN GARRET'S APARTMENT

HE NEVER CAME BACK... AND THE
ONLY THING MISSING FROM THE
LIST WE MADE IS SOME MAPS.
I'VE GOT A HUNCH **DAN GARRET'S**
NOT COMING BACK... IF
HE WAS EVER
HERE!



WE BETTER START CHECKING
EVERYONE WHO KNEW GARRET!
IT'S GOING TO BE INTERESTING
TO SEE TED KORD'S
REACTION TO
ALL OF THIS!





WHILE ELSEWHERE .

I SPEAK FOR ALL WHO SEEK JUSTICE/ THE PROOF LIES IN THE RESULTS OF PUBLIC OPINION POLLS AND I SAY THAT ALL DECENT CITIZENS DEMAND MEASURES BE TAKEN AT ONCE AGAINST THE BLUE BEETLE, SO THAT WE CAN RETURN TO A LIFE WITHOUT FEAR!



I SAY WE SHOULD START ORGANIZING PROTEST MARCHES .. AND PICKET CITY HALL!

YES, THEY'D REALIZE THEN THAT WE KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE!



WE STRIKE AS LONG AS THE HEAT'S ON THE BLUE BEETLE! AFTER ALL, IT'S HIS GUN THAT'S THE REAL CRIMINAL.. IT'S FORCING US TO USE IT HA/HA!



NEXT MORNING. .

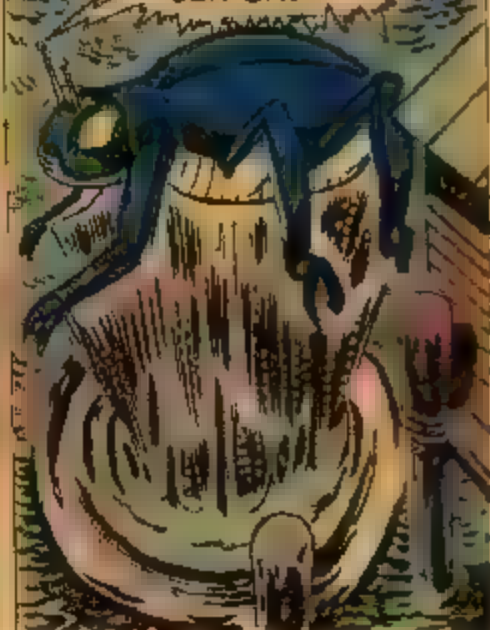
THE MINUTE DAN CALLS, TRACEY, CONTACT ME. I MUST TALK TO HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



IF I HAVE TO END MY SHORT CAREER NOW, I'D LIKE TO DO IT WITH A CLEAN RECORD!



AND THAT MEANS GETTING THE BEETLE GUN BACK!

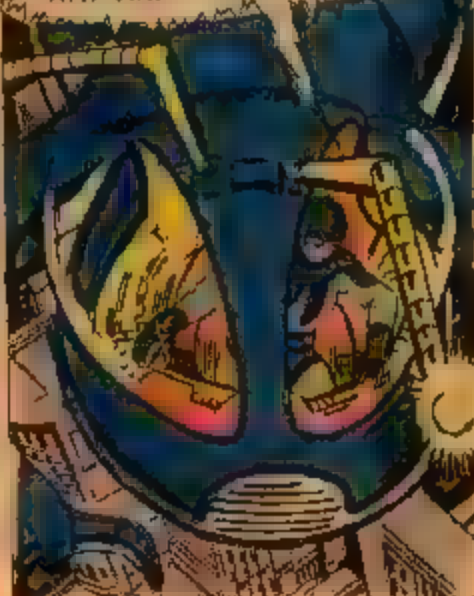


MEANWHILE, ANOTHER BANK FACES THE BLUE BEETLE'S GUN IN THE HANDS OF THE MADMEN!

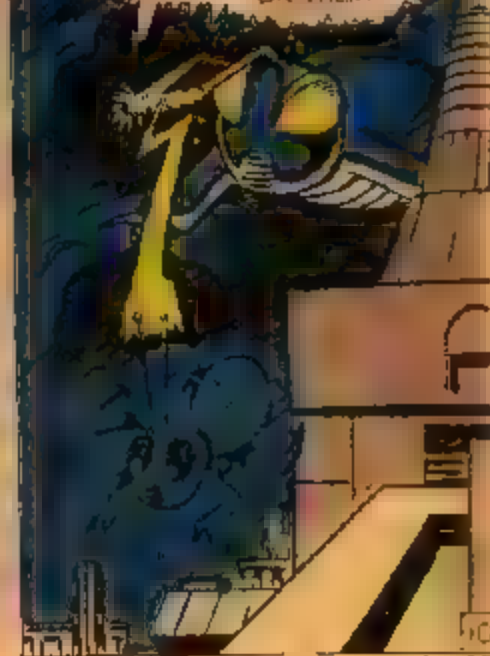
TAKE WHAT YOU WANT, BUT DON'T HARM US WITH THE GUN!



THE GUNS IN USE AGAIN! THIS TIME I'M NOT GOING TO CHARGE IN BLINDLY! INSTEAD, I'LL HANG BACK OUT OF THEIR WAY AND ..



I'D SPATCH MY TINY BUG TO KEEP ITS TV EYES ON THEM



CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

see through walls



SPY PEN

FOR REAL UNDERCOVER OPERATORS

You can now keep constant check on anything that happens all around you regardless of walls, floors, or ceilings. SPY-PEN penetrates anti barriers, registers any light as open door. Yes, it even lets you look DOWN into rooms beneath you. We will let your own imagination trigger all the possible uses SPY-PEN has for you.

A PRECISION INSTRUMENT

SPY-PEN was developed by the German Secret Service during World War II and is being used by Interpol Agents today. Now an even more precision improved model is being offered the public by the man from U.S.C.A. SPY-PEN has three precision ground optical quality lenses, not just two like competitive models. To afford an extreme wide angle field that lets you even see objects standing by the very wall through which you are observing.

SPY-PEN gives you such sharp definition that you can photograph right through it, sharply recording everything in the viewed area. Nothing escapes SPY-PEN.

COMBINE TO POWERFUL TELESCOPE

Only SPY-PEN lets you close in telescopically on any item of interest. No other device has both these features: wide angle secret vision and close-up inspection.

CLIPS TO YOUR POCKET

SPY-PEN looks like an ordinary fountain pen in your pocket. Even if seen it will not be suspected as the incredible instrument with such amazing powers of penetration.

COMPLETE WITH SIMPLE HOW-TO-USE INSTRUCTION BOOKLET



MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Royal Artig. Corp.
Lynchburg, N. Y.

Dept. 841

Please rush me my Spy Pen at once. I understand if I am not 100% satisfied, I may return the product without purchase price.

☐ I enclose \$2.98 + 36¢ shipping charges.
☐ Send C.O.D. with my minimum on delivery. C.S.D. and shipping charges.

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RELIVE EXCITING AIR BATTLES! Create your own life-like dogfights! Knock invading bombers out of the sky! Dive bomb an invading enemy! These 20 actual flying scale models of famous World War II aircraft are made of durable plastic. They can be assembled in minutes. Virtually every country, both friendly and enemy, is represented with these famous flying airplanes:

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MAIL THIS ORDER WITH \$1.49 PER PLANE. OTHER US. ORDERS

VICTOR SPECIALTIES, Dept. BC-567
Chariton Building, Derby, Conn. 06418

Please rush me 20 authentic flying models of Famous World War II airplanes. I have enclosed \$1.49 ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Money Order

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

THE MADMEN ARE IN THAT TRUCK / I CAN PICK UP THEIR GLOATING VOICES NOW TO FOLLOW THEM.

SO THEY HOLE UP IN THE DESERTED PATE'S FACTORY

SINCE THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY OF THEM FOR ME

IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF I JUST CASE THE REHDEOUT AND CALL THE POLICE!

THE POLICE CAN ROUND UP THE MADMEN AND MY GUN WILL BE OUT OF CRIMINAL HANDS AS AN EX-BLUE-BEETLE, I WON'T FIND MUCH USE FOR IT ANYWAY

THE ALARM SIGNAL I'VE GOT COMPANY! GET READY TO INVITE HIM IN ANY BETS ON WHO OUR BUGGY INTRUDER IS? HA HA! NOW!

THEY CHANGED MY MIND! I'LL TAKE THEM ON BY MYSELF AFTER ALL!

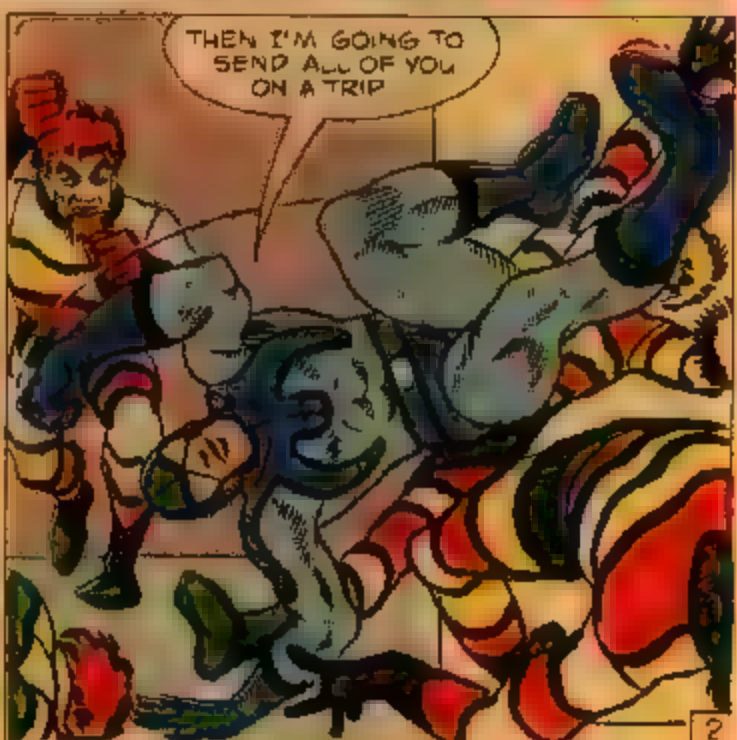
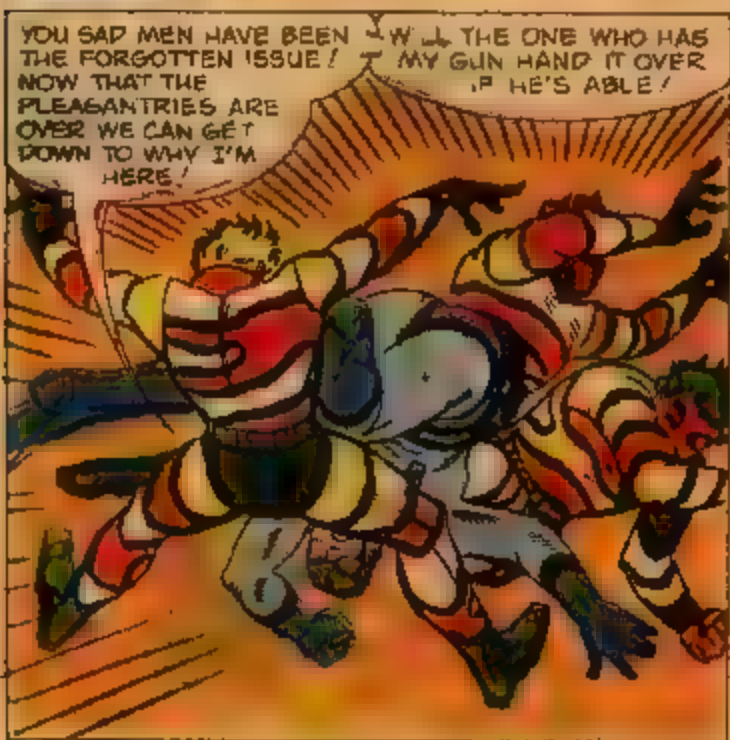
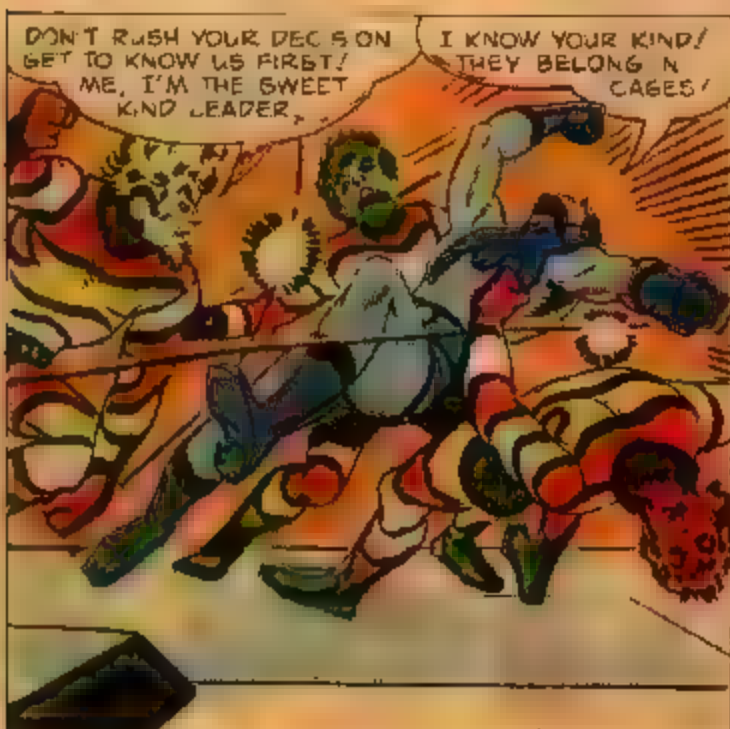
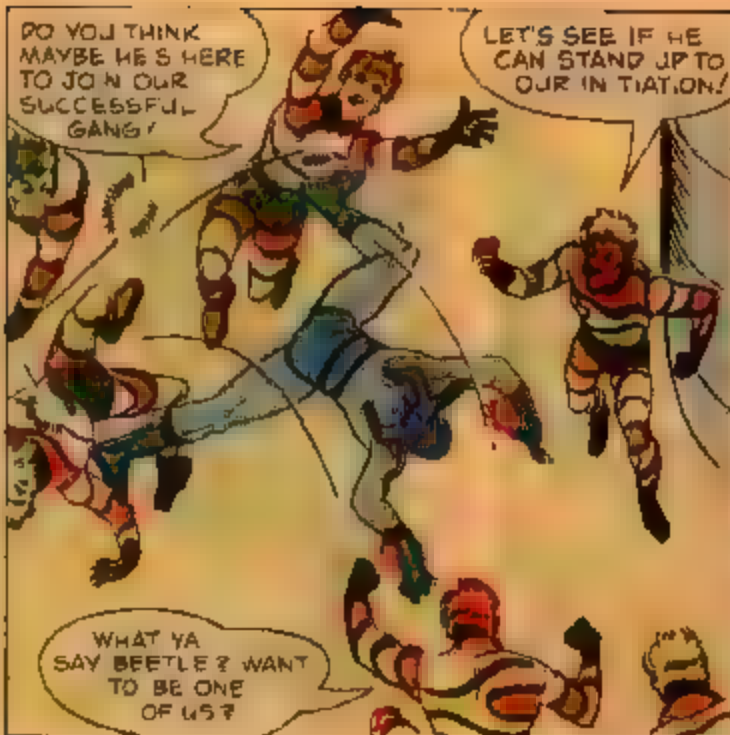
I WAS RIGHT! IT'S OUR OLD PLAYMATE!

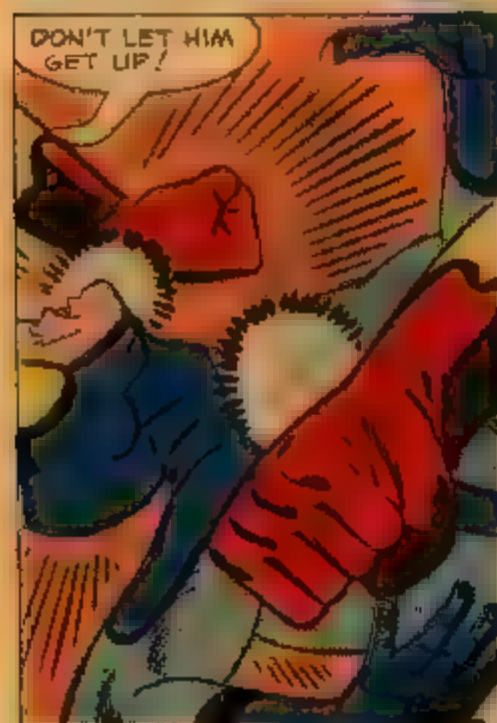
I CAN USE THIS OVERHANGING PIPE TO BREAK MY FALL AND TO LET ME CHOOSE MY OWN LANDING SPOT!

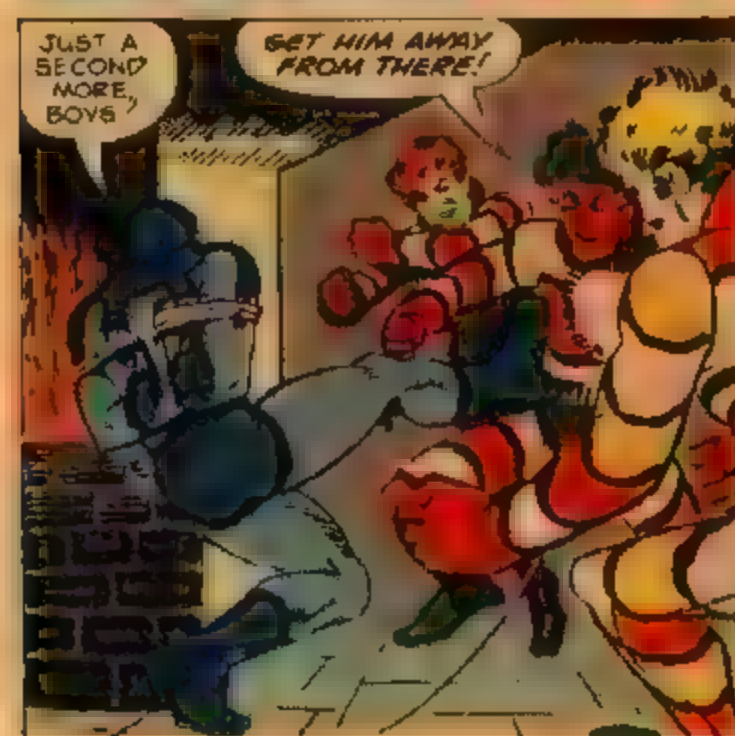
THERE'S NO WAY OUT FOR THAT BUG! THIS TIME WE FINISH HIM!

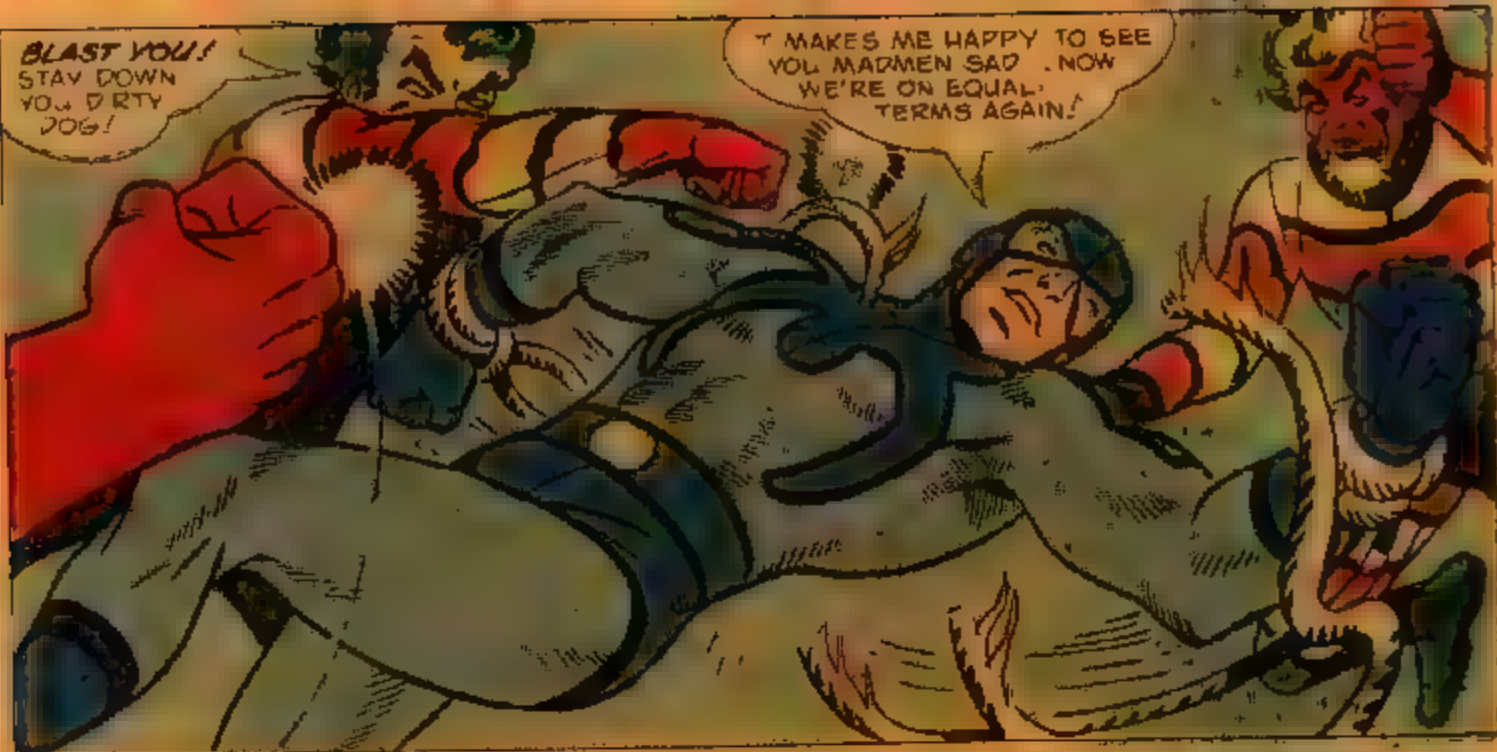
WATCH OUT! HE'S SWINGING THIS WAAA

ONCE AGAIN, I FIND MYSELF IN BAD COMPANY!



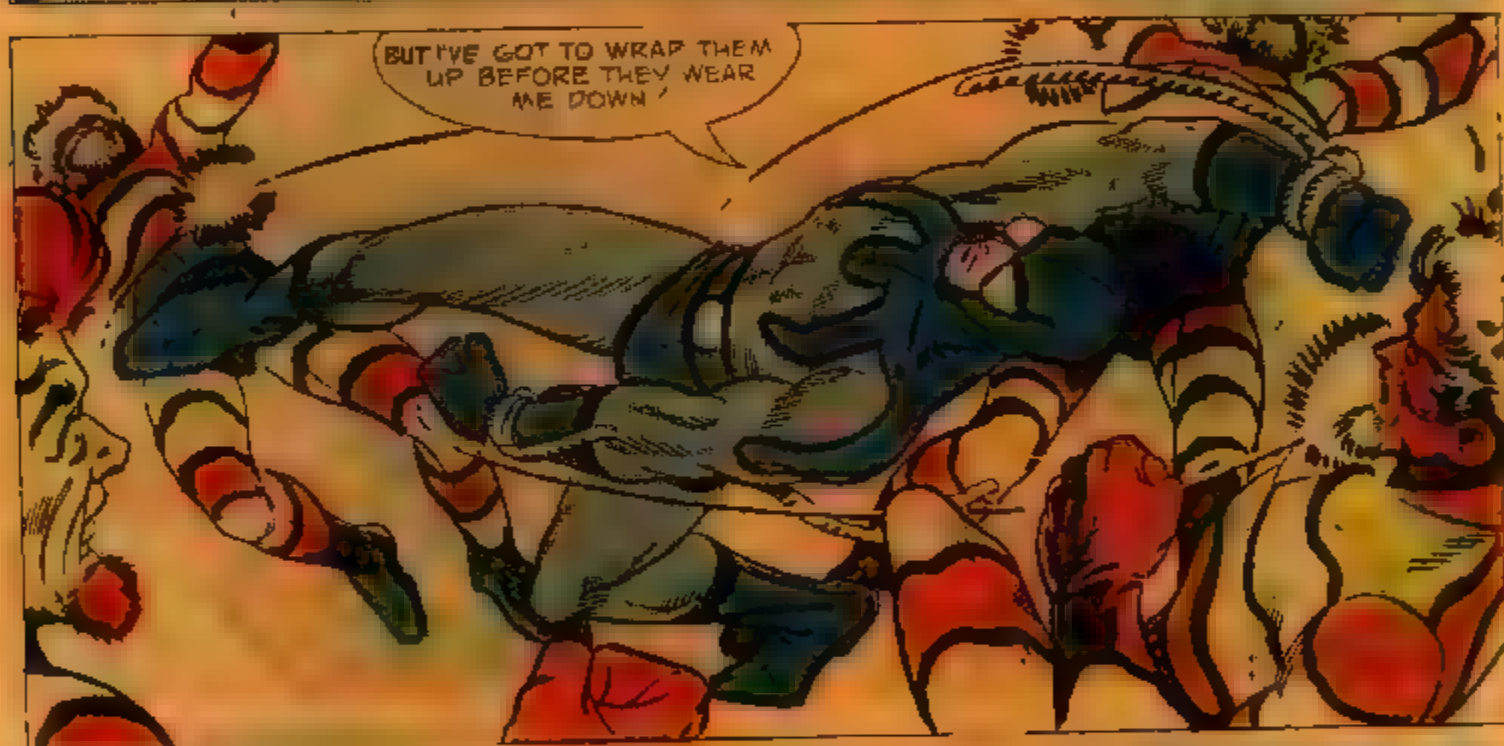






BLAST YOU!
STAY DOWN
YOU DIRTY
DOG!

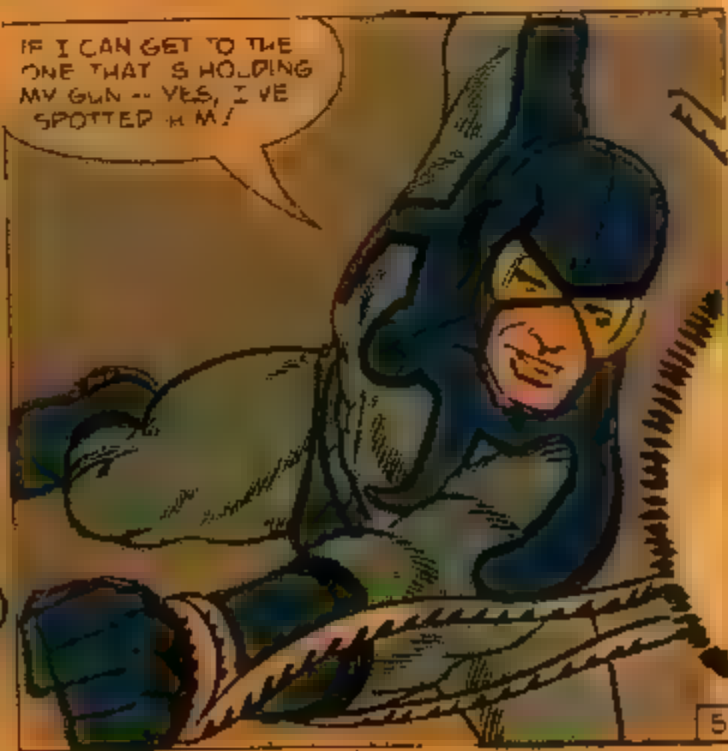
IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO SEE
YOU MADMEN SAD. NOW
WE'RE ON EQUAL
TERMS AGAIN!



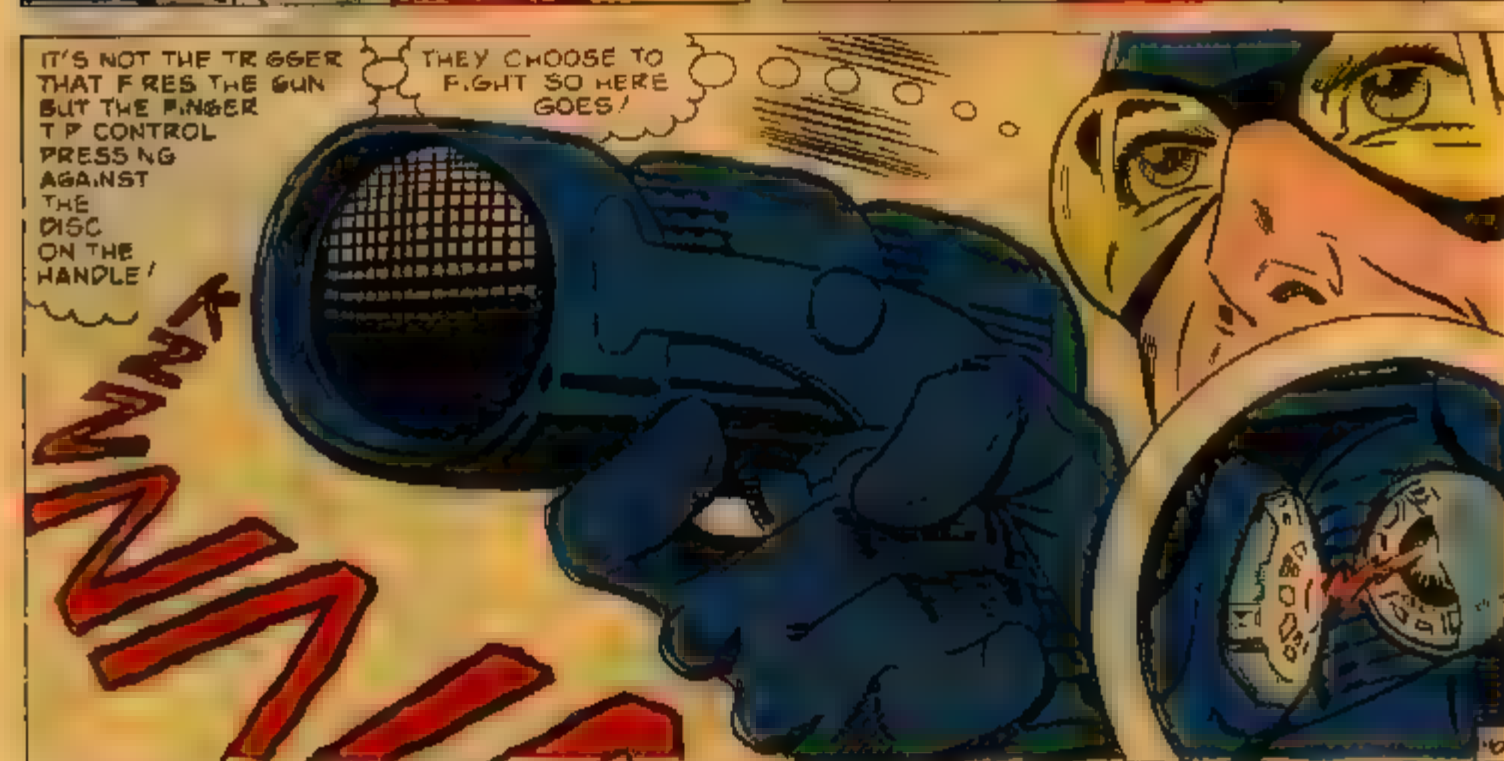
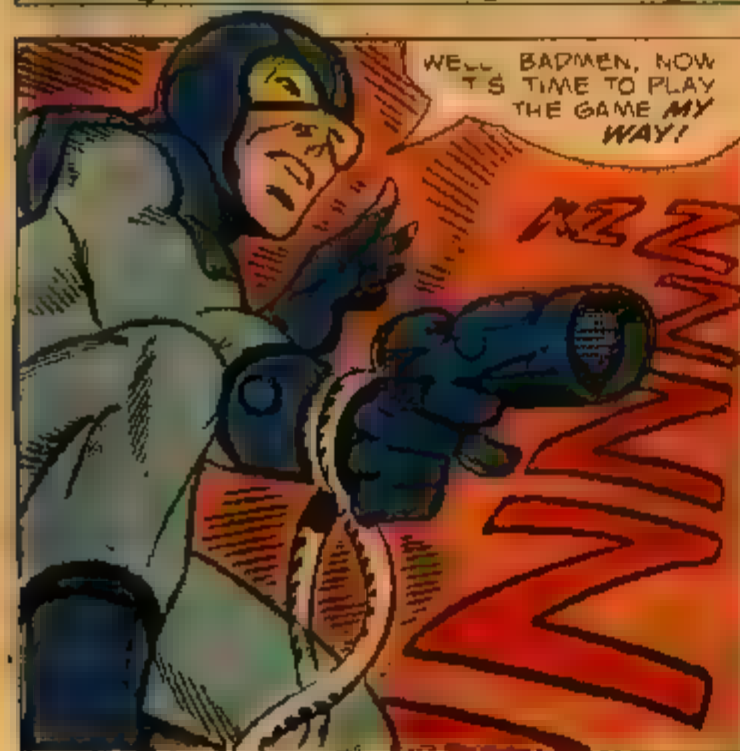
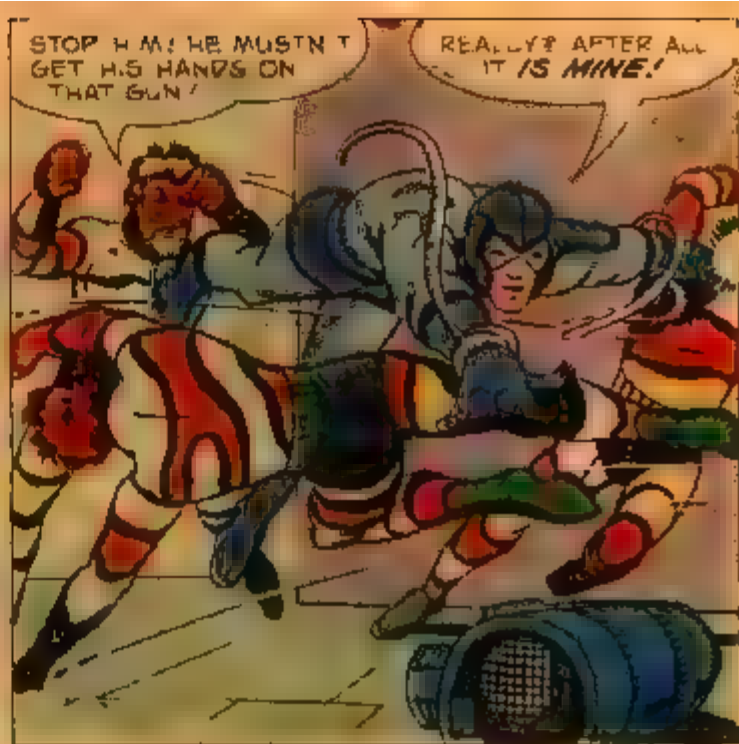
BUT I'VE GOT TO WRAP THEM
UP BEFORE THEY WEAR
ME DOWN!



HEY WAIT THERE'S ONE
WAY I CAN DO IT!



IF I CAN GET TO THE
ONE THAT'S HOLDING
MY GUN -- YES, I'VE
SPOTTED H.M.!



SUDDENLY, THERE IS A BRILLIANT
FLASH OF LIGHT!



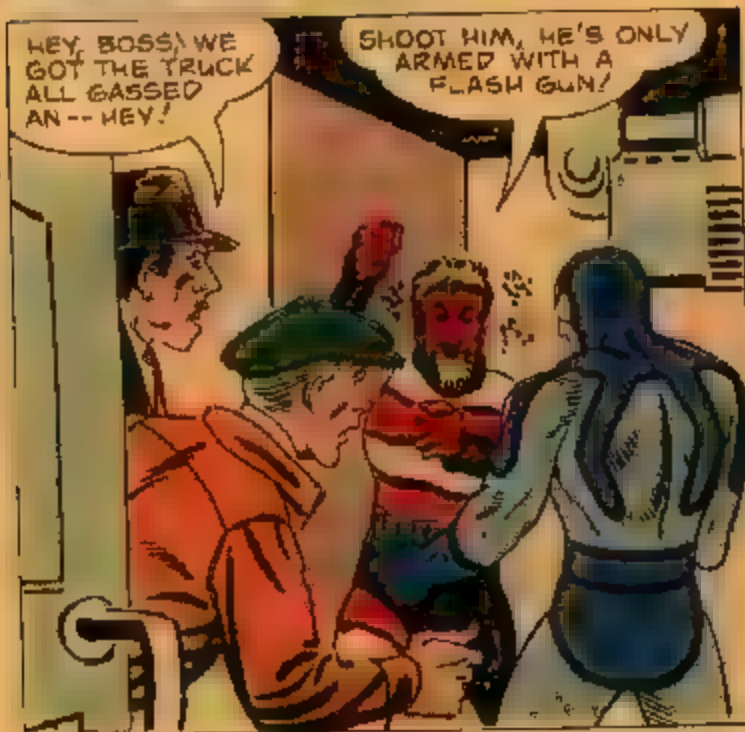
WHA! IT'S
ONLY A
FLASH
GUN?

YOU JOKERS D'DN'T THINK
I'D CARRY AROUND A
DEADLY WEAPON?
THIS GUN SERVES
MY PURPOSE!



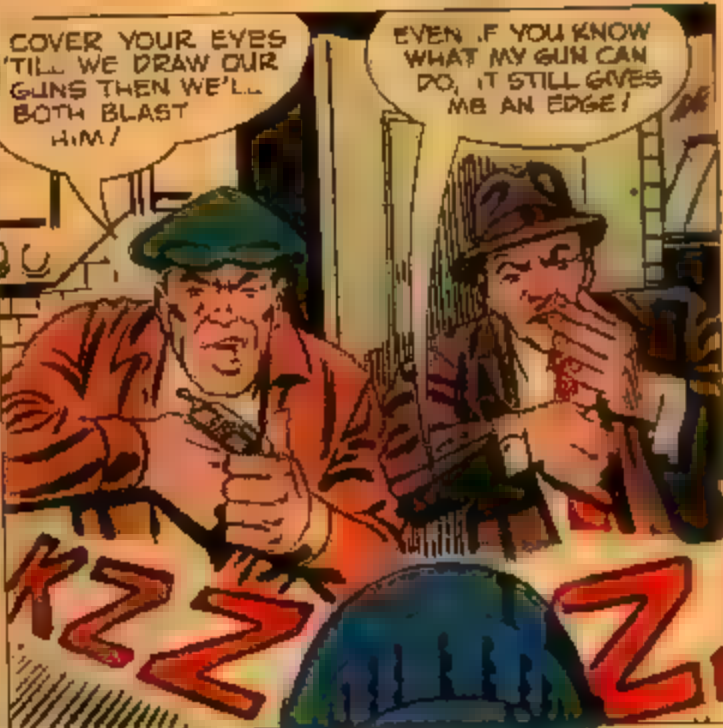
HEY, BOSS! WE
GOT THE TRUCK
ALL GASSED
AN-- HEY!

SHOOT HIM, HE'S ONLY
ARMED WITH A
FLASH GUN!



COVER YOUR EYES
TILL WE DRAW OUR
GUNS THEN WE'LL
BOTH BLAST
HIM!

EVEN IF YOU KNOW
WHAT MY GUN CAN
DO, IT STILL GIVES
ME AN EDGE!



YOU'RE EITHER PUT OUT
OF ACTION BY THE
FLASH OR YOU
CLOSE YOUR EYES--

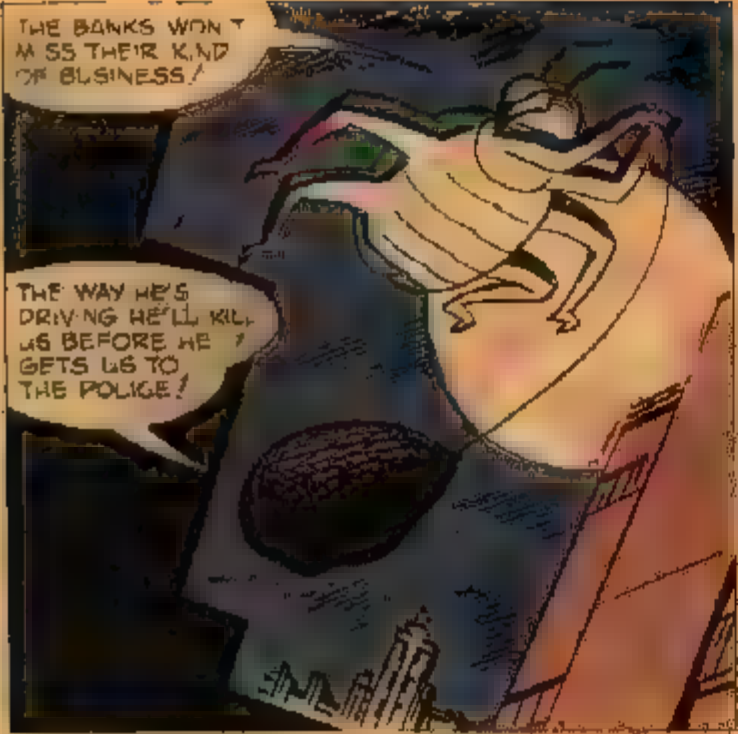
AND THAT GIVES ME
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
KEEP THEM CLOSED!
I'LL DEMONSTRATE!



TOO BAD I DIDN'T SPOT
THAT NETTING BEFORE!
IT WILL WRAP
EVERYONE UP
NICELY!

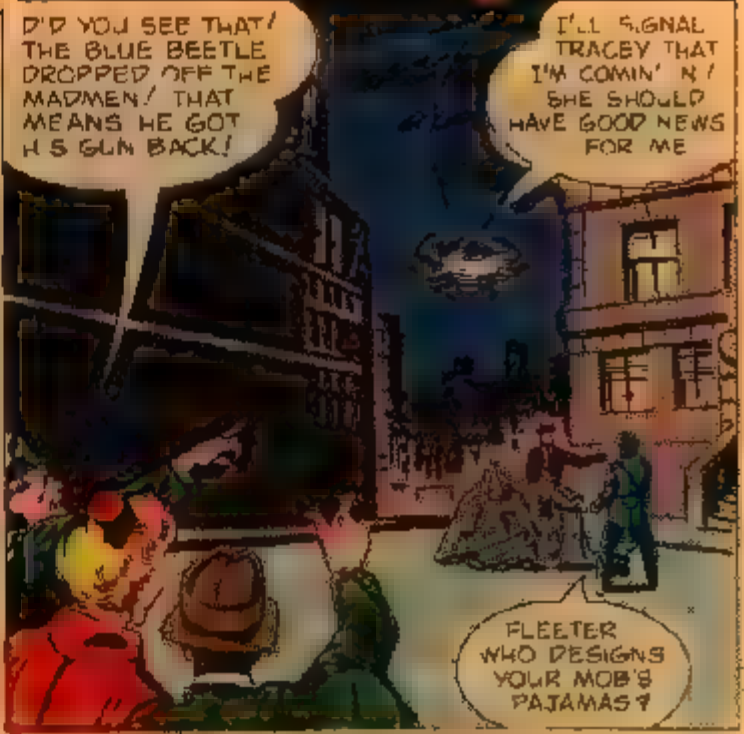
I CAN SEE
AGA... HEY!





THE BANKS WON'T MISS THEIR KIND OF BUSINESS!

THE WAY HE'S DRIVING HE'LL KILL US BEFORE HE GETS US TO THE POLICE!



DID YOU SEE THAT! THE BLUE BEETLE DROPPED OFF THE MADMEN! THAT MEANS HE GOT HIS GUN BACK!

I'LL SIGNAL TRACEY THAT I'M COMIN' N! SHE SHOULD HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR ME

FLEETER WHO DESIGNS YOUR MOB'S PAJAMAS?



HARRUMP! I WAS NEVER ONE OF THOSE WHO WAS AGAINST THE BLUE BEETLE!

NOR I - I ALWAYS ADORED BLUE!



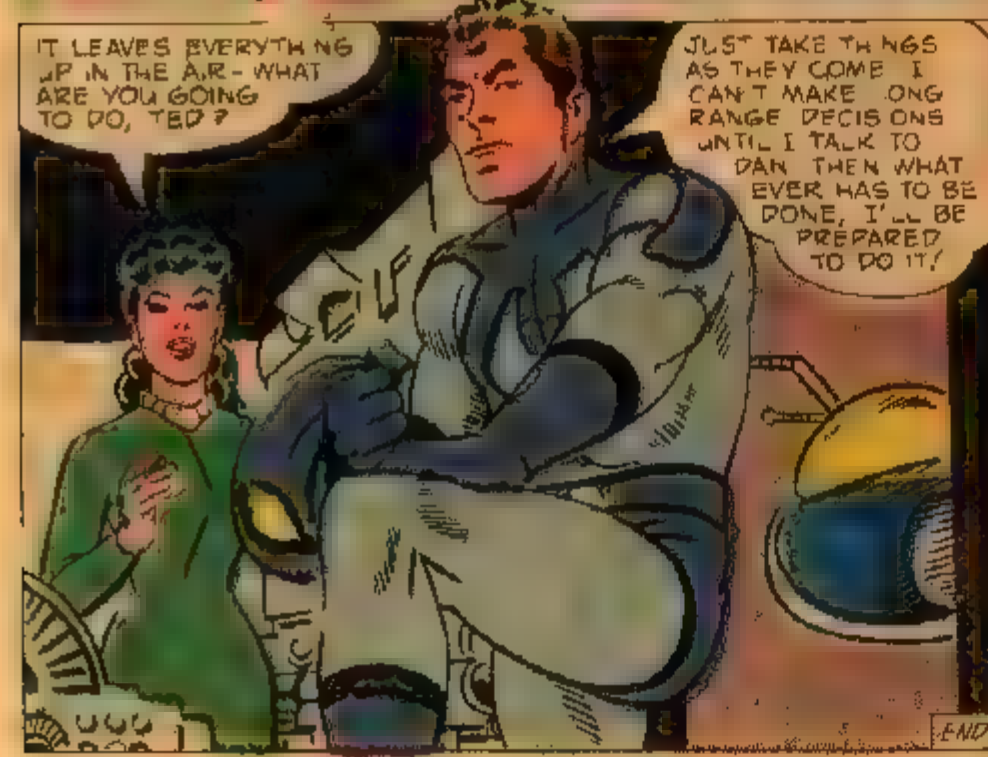
STILL NO WORD FROM DAN!

I GUESS LT FISHER HASN'T FOUND HIM YET OR HE'D HAVE CALLED



WHAT'S HOLDING DAN BACK, YOU'D THINK HE'D BE JUST AS ANXIOUS TO SEE AND TALK TO YOU!

IT'S PUZZLING!



IT LEAVES EVERYTHING UP IN THE AIR - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, TED?

JUST TAKE THINGS AS THEY COME I CAN'T MAKE LONG RANGE DECISIONS UNTIL I TALK TO DAN THEN WHAT EVER HAS TO BE DONE, I'LL BE PREPARED TO DO IT!



NEXT ISSUE!

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END



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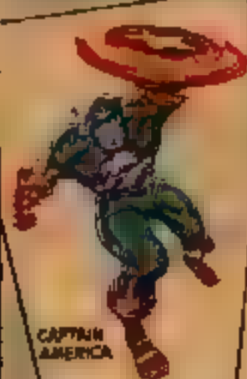
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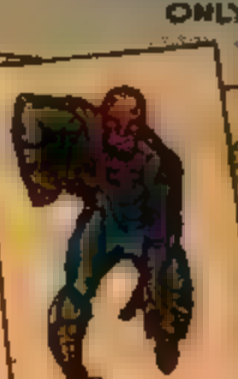
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the BEETLE'S NEST

ADDRESS MAIL TO: THE BEETLE'S NEST
CHARLTON COMICS GROUP, DERBY, CONN. 06418

Dear Editor:

Wow! I'm doing cartwheels and backflips! You're probably wondering why I'm doing such things. Well, wouldn't you do the same if you were waiting for the newest, greatest act on-hero to get his own mag, hence, one week later there it is, Big as life, THE (new) BLUE BEETLE now in his own mag! Sure you would. Everybody wouldn't they?

Also I'd like you guys to know that your comics have improved immensely in the past year. There was a time when I thought your mags were about the poorest on the stands. But I stuck with you; for I knew there would come a day when CHARLTON COMICS would rise to the top of its profession. Of course, I was correct as usual. Just keep up the good work and you may even conquer the world before MARVEL.

Uncle Bob
Pittsfield, Mass. 01201

Thanks for the kind words, Uncle Bob! But who wants to conquer the world? ...wouldn't know what to do with it! We're just trying to put out a decent comic.

Dear Editor:

BLUE BEETLE #1 aside from the fact that there was a little trouble with the thought balloons, was excellent. From cover to cover Steve Ditko's art was as good if not better than ever.

With the first issue of most superhero comics there are always a few basic questions that arise. I would like to see how well I can do answering them myself.

Q. Will you be giving out any original art?

A. No.

Q. Will you feature BB in a story with one of your other action-heroes such as Captain Atom?

A. Yes.

Q. Why not reprint some of the old BB stories?

A. We'll think about it.
Well how did I do?

Talking about questions, I felt the Quest on story in BB #1 was a good strip even if Professor Rodor and Celia Star, who were on the first page's cast of characters were not in the story. The Question story reminded me very much of a golden age hero, with fast action and an average of eight panels a page (most new comics have six or less). At the end of the story a superhero called The Banshee is listed to appear in the spot where the Quest on story was, does this mean that there will be no more Quest on stories or will he be put in the spot where the short story of BB's in Captain Atom comics?

Dave Caplan
1640 Sherbourne Dr.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90035

The answers to your first three questions are no, no and no in that order. To further clarify this; we don't give out original art...we need it! Now, don't jump down our throats...we have made exceptions to this no art bit but only when certain factors were present which made it possible to do so. Don't ask us to explain, it's too complicated. Suffice it to say these certain factors are not present in BB art!

Internal problems make it difficult to do team-ups or reprints at this time.

Now The Question; Professor Rodor and Celia will appear in subsequent issues. We couldn't jam everybody into the first episode. The Banshee is not a superhero...he's a villain whom The Question battles in BLUE BEETLE #2. You've probably read it by now...right?

Dear Editor:

In the winter of 1939 Fox Features published the first issue of BLUE BEETLE. That was before my time, but I managed to purchase a couple of issues from dealers. It is interesting to note that the costume changed little during its run of publication.

In June, 1964 Charlton's first BLUE BEETLE came out. The only change in costume from that of the 40's was the mask and red stripe on the head.

This Blue Beetle was perhaps better than the first because the stories were not meant to be propaganda. Instead, the second Blue Beetle fought supernatural and science-fiction menaces like the Mummy, Mr. Thunderbolt, Praying Mantis Man, Mentor, Magno Man, and the Eye of Horus. Even though the stories were good better than average, Charlton's Blue Beetle suffered because of art work. Small wonder then that after the March, 1966 issue, Dan Garrett, the Blue Beetle went into comic book limbo for the second time.

But, as they say "You can't keep a good man down." This was the case with the Blue Beetle. CAPTAIN ATOM #83 gave us a seven page story of still another Blue Beetle, this time however, with an excellent script by Gary Friedrich and art by Steve Ditko. It is interesting to note a costume change, and a welcome one. The old one, just one shade of blue with a little red and black, seemed terribly dull for a hero like Blue Beetle. The new one, a though entirely blue—light blue and dark seems to fit the new Blue Beetle's personality.

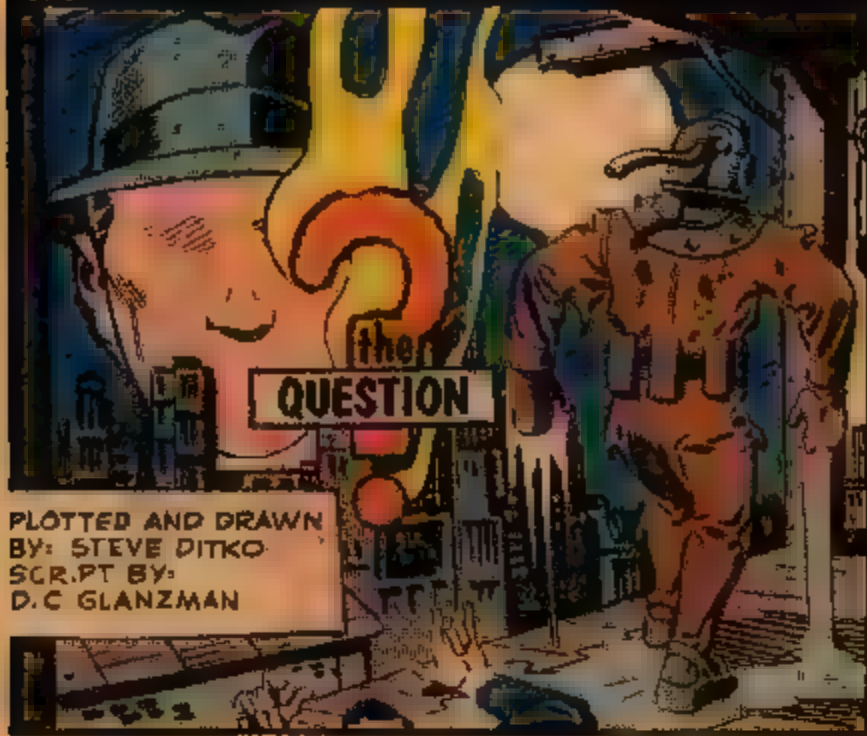
So I followed Blue Beetle through Captain Atom until I read that soon Blue Beetle would be in his own book. Now I have it. It's even better than I thought it would be. If future issues are like this, this Blue Beetle will be around for several years.

I also noticed another new hero, The Question. I have a hunch that he'll prove successful as so. A though he reminds me of the Spirit it's far superior because of its seriousness while the Spirit is slightly humorous. If The Question doesn't have his own book a year from now, I'll be surprised. This character has great potential.

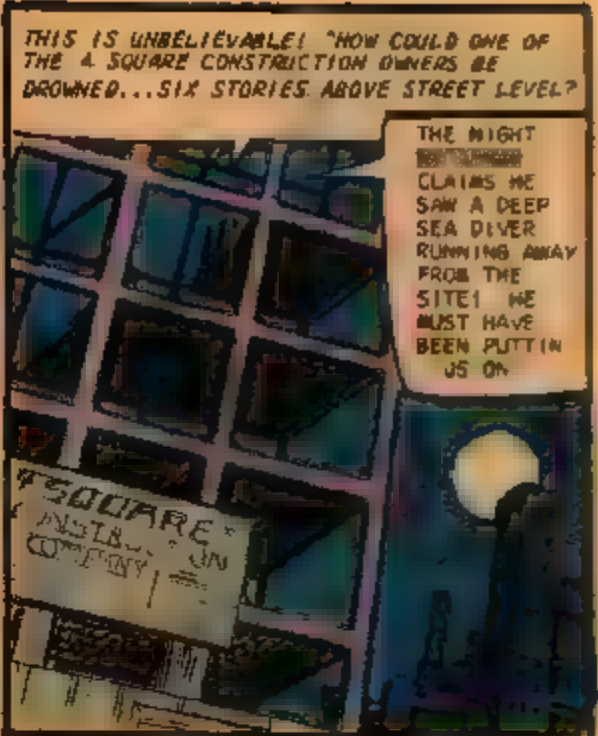
Long live the Third Blue Beetle. May he live 1000 issues.

Gene Reed
2128 Lynn Road
Huntsville, Ala

Yeah, well, we'll settle for 500 issues, but thanks for the words of praise...we don't mind having our egos fed!

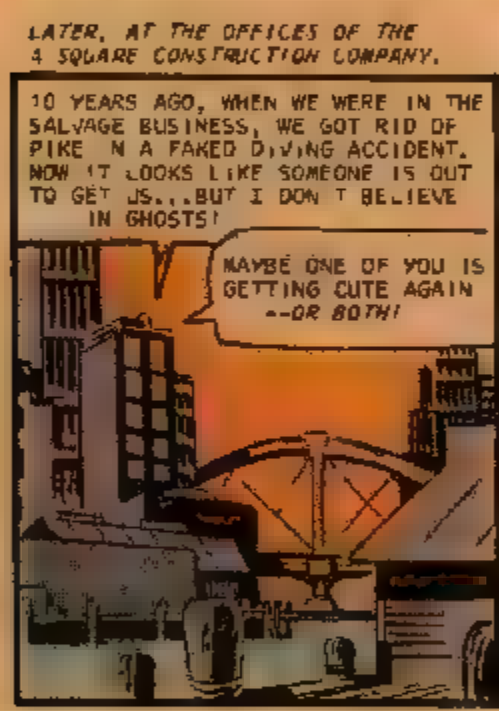


PLOTTED AND DRAWN
BY: STEVE DITKO
SCRIPT BY:
D.C GLANZMAN



THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! "HOW COULD ONE OF
THE 4 SQUARE CONSTRUCTION OWNERS BE
DROWNED...SIX STORIES ABOVE STREET LEVEL?

THE NIGHT
CLAIMS HE
SAW A DEEP
SEA DIVER
RUNNING AWAY
FROM THE
SITE! HE
MUST HAVE
BEEN PUTTIN
US ON



LATER, AT THE OFFICES OF THE
4 SQUARE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

10 YEARS AGO, WHEN WE WERE IN THE
SALVAGE BUSINESS, WE GOT RID OF
PIKE IN A FAKED DIVING ACCIDENT.
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS OUT
TO GET US...BUT I DON'T BELIEVE
IN GHOSTS!

MAYBE ONE OF YOU IS
GETTING CUTE AGAIN
--OR BOTH!



WE CAN'T RISK
FIGHTING AMONG
OURSELVES. WE'RE
ALL IN THIS
TOGETHER. SOMEONE
FROM THE OLD DAYS
MIGHT BE THINKING
HE KNOWS SOMETHING
AND IS TRYING TO
PANIC US.

DON'T
FORGET, VIC
SAGE IS
DIGGING
INTO OUR
OPERATIONS
AND WE'VE
GUT QUITE
A FEW
CORNERS!



WE HAVE TO
ACT LIKE WE
HAVE NOTHING
TO HIDE AND
PLAN IT
STRAIGHT!

BUT SAGE LIKES TO
DIG DEEP, IF HE
COMES UP WITH
ANYTHING WE HAVE
TO BE PREPARED
TO BUY HIM OFF
...OR FIX HIM
ANOTHER WAY!



MEANWHILE, AT THE WORLD-WIDE
BROADCASTING...

SAGE, QUIT TRYING
TO MAKE NEWS
YOUR JOB IS JUST
TO REPORT EVENTS
THAT HAPPEN.
STOP STEPPING OUT
OF LINE.

SYD, YOU'RE
NOT QUALI-
FIED TO DRAW
BOUNDARIES
AROUND MY
JOB!



EVERS, I TOLD
YOU I WON'T DEAL
WITH YOU TILL
YOU PAY BACK
THAT LOAN.

YOU WON'T
MESS IT,
SAGE, YOU
MAKE PLENTY
OFF THE
SPONSOR I
REPRESENT!



ONE WORD FROM
ME, SAGE, AND
MY SPONSOR
WILL DROP YOU
--CAN YOU
AFFORD TO
LOSE THAT MUCH?

GET LOST,
EVERS, TILL
YOU'RE READY
TO PAY UP.

OKAY, MONEY HUNGRY, YOU'LL GET YOUR DOUGH!

WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT OUR NEWEST MEMBER TO THE HATE SAGE CLUB CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SAGE'S DOWNFALL!

LOOK, EVERS, YOU TALK YOUR SPONSOR INTO DROPPING SAGE AND WE'LL FIX YOU UP WITH A NEW SHOW... AT PRIME TIME!

IT'S NO USE, SYD, MY STUPID SPONSOR WANTS SAGE, PERIOD! HE'D DUMP ME BEFORE SAGE!

THAT'S THE DATA, VIC! THE BOYS DUG BACK INTO THE 4 SQUARE OPERATORS SINCE THEY FIRST TEAMED UP.

GOOD! I'LL GO OVER THIS TONIGHT... RIGHT NOW I WANT TO SEE HOW WORRIED THEY ARE OVER AT 4 SQUARE.

LATER, AT THE 4 SQUARE OFFICES...

ONLY MR. CRANE'S HERE BUT YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON HE'D WANT TO TALK TO, SAGE! SO BEAT IT!

YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT WHAT HE JUST TOLD ME!

WHILE IN THE OFFICE OF MR. CRANE

NO! NO! HELP!

MR. CRANE!

COME ON, BEFORE YOU'RE DOWN TO 2 BOSSES!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'D ALL THAT WATER COME FROM?

A TRAIL LEADS TO THE OTHER DOOR--TAKE CARE OF CRANE---

THE DIVER! I'VE GOT A GOOD CHANCE TO NAB HIM BUT I'D BETTER NOT DO IT AS VIC SAGE!

THE QUEST ON CAN DO THE JOB THEN DISAPPEAR WHEREAS VIC SAGE WOULD BE TIED UP TELLING AND RETELLING WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERY INQUISITIVE SOUL.

THE MASK IS ON, NOW TO RELEASE THE GAS THAT WILL GIVE ME AN INSTANT CHANGE OF IDENTITY!

HE'S HEADING FOR THE RIVER AND
FOR SOMEONE WEARING A DIVING RIS.
HE MOVES AWFULLY FAST.



I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE
REACHES THE END OF THE PIER!



HE WON'T GO
ANYWHERE, ONCE
HE'S OFF HIS
FEET,



THAT SLIT'S A FAKE, A KICK BY A
REAL LEAD SHOE WOULD HAVE FIN
SHED ME



WH...? HE'S TRYING TO DROWN
ME WITH WATER FROM HIS GLOVES
GLUB



I...I MANAGED TO RELEASE SOME GAS
AND IT SHOOK HIM ENOUGH TO MAKE
HIM LET UP FOR A SECOND.



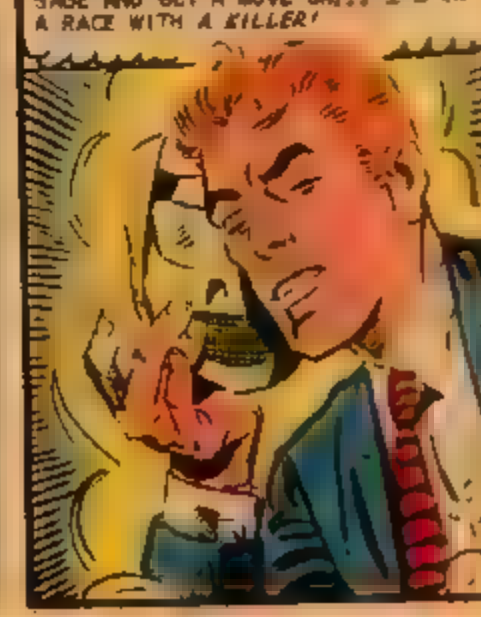
AND THAT'S ALL THE TIME I NEED
OH, OH! I DIDN'T REALIZE WE
WERE SO CLOSE TO THE EDGE
HE'LL GET AWAY NOW!



LOOKS LIKE I HAVE COMPETITION!
SOMEONE ELSE IS OUT TO GET THE
4 SQUARE BUNCH---ONLY HE DOESN'T
WANT THEM IN JAIL-- HE WANTS
THEM DEAD!



THE INFORMATION MY STAFF DUG UP
MIGHT PROVIDE A CLUE AS TO THE
IDENTITY OF THIS DIVER OF DEATH!
I'D BETTER CHANGE BACK TO VIC
SAGE AND GET A MOVE ON... I'M IN
A RACE WITH A KILLER!



SOMETIME LATER AT THE OFFICE OF THE SQUAD...

HOW DO I REALLY KNOW ONE OF YOU AREN'T OUT TO GET RID OF ME?

MUTS! HOW DO WE KNOW YOU DIDN'T STAGE THE WHOLE STUNT YOURSELF



YOU'RE CRAZY! DID I ALSO PLAN FOR SAGE TO BE HERE?

LET'S STOP NEEDLING EACH OTHER AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHO THIS DIVER IS AND HOW TO STOP HIM...AND SAGE.



THAT NIGHT— THE VICTIMS MOUNT—

NOW NUMBER 3 AND THEN THE PARTNER SHIP IS NO MORE! AFTER I PROVIDE THE POLICE WITH THEIR MURDERER, I'LL BE SAFE AND RICH. I'VE PLANNED EVERYTHING PERFECTLY.



MEANWHILE, OLD RECORDS SHED A NEW LEAD...

THE OLD SALVAGE OPERATIONS... IF ANY OF THOSE DIVERS ARE AROUND, THEY COULD BE THE KEY TO EVERYTHING.

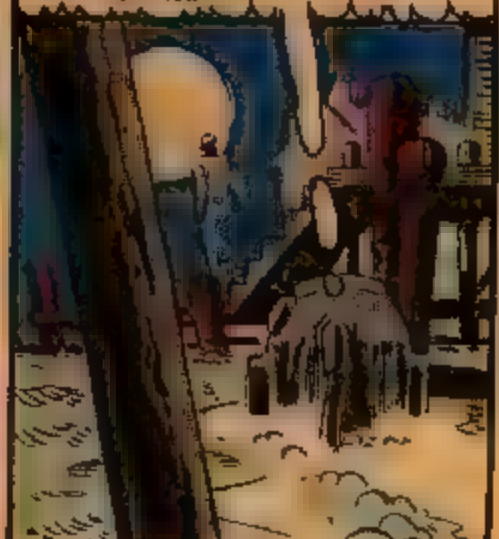


THE QUESTION TAKES OVER THE SEARCH!

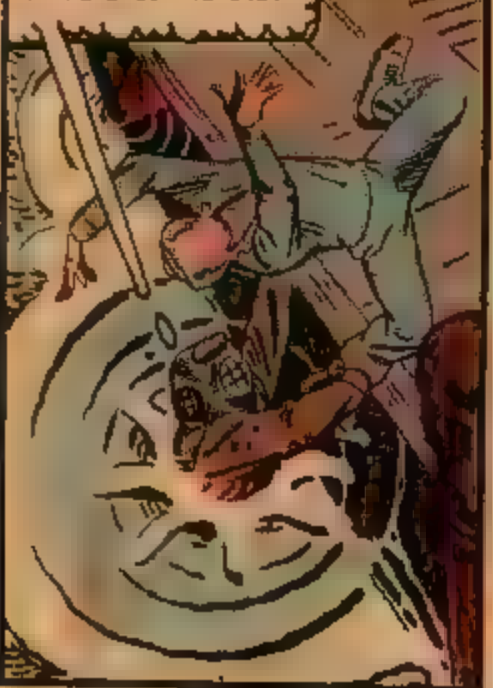
THEIR SALVAGE OPERATIONS WERE SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS DESERTED DOCK NOT MUCH CHANCE OF FINDING ANYONE AROUND BUT STILL...



WHO'S THAT? CAN'T SEE HIS FACE BUT HE'S NO DOG FTER! HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING! MAYBE HE'S A COP... OR SAGE. WELL I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES, NOT NOW.



SO HE'S GOT TO DIE!



THAT SNEAK ATTACK GAVE THE DIVER A CHANCE TO GET A HOLD ON ME



GOT TO...BREAK FREE...CAN'T LET HIM HOLD ME DOWN HERE...!



IF I CAN... JUST SHOVE H M AWAY
...WITH MY FEET...



THAT D D IT! IT'S SO DARK DOWN
HERE HE WON'T KNOW WHERE I'VE
GONE!



HE HASN'T COME UP! I'D SURE
L KE TO KNOW WHERE HE IS!



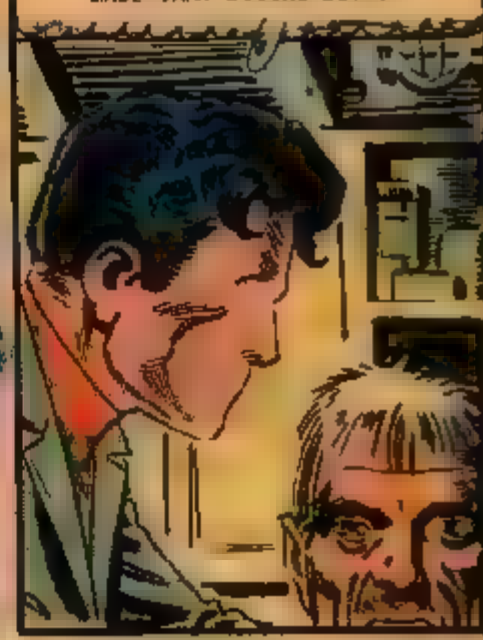
THAT'S THE OLD SALVAGE OPERATIONS
SHACK! IT LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S
BEEN THERE FOR YEARS...



MAYBE SOME RECORDS---WHAI---
STRANGE! HIS BODY IS TOO
RIGID TO BE ASLEEP!



HE'S ALIVE BUT HE'S UNDER
A DRUG! I'M BETTING HE
MADE THAT DIVING SUIT!



HMM. BILLS FOR PARTS AND EQUIP-
MENT. THIS GUY IS BEING MADE A
FALL GUY! WAIT! ON TH S OLD
PAD--A RECENTLY WRITTEN TELEPHONE
NUMBER!



I CAN'T AFFORD TO LET EITHER ONE
OF THEM LIVE, ESPECIALLY MY EX-
HUPER--- I'LL HAVE TO WORK OUT
A NEW PLAN!



I WAS GOING TO PUT THAT DRUGGED
POOL IN THIS SUIT HE MADE FOR
ME AND THEN KILL HIM, MAKING IT
LOOK LIKE SELF-DEFENSE. HE'D
GET BLAMED FOR KILLING ALL THE
OTHERS AND I'D BE IN THE CLEAR!



CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

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THE FLOOR IS ROTTEN--I CAN BREAK THROUGH



I HOPE THE SMOKE COVERS OUR DROP. I'M SURE THE DIVER IS WATCHING TO MAKE SURE THE FIRE GETS US!



WE GOT PAST HIM-- I'LL LEAVE THIS GUY FOR THE FIREFMEN TO TAKE CARE OF.



I CAN STILL PUT THE BLAME ON JAKE. HE HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST US UNTIL I TALKED HIM INTO THIS. I CAN STILL CONVINCE THE POLICE, HE WAS BEHIND IT ALL.

HE'S LEAVING. I CAN'T FOLLOW HIM NOW BUT IF I TRACE THAT NUMBER!



ONCE I GET RID OF THIS S.U.T.- WHA--A CARD HANGING FROM THE CEILING



SOMETHING APPEARING... A QUESTION THE QUESTION!



YOU THINK THAT SUIT WILL SAVE YOU FROM THE HOT WATER YOU'RE IN?

YOU'RE... THE QUESTION! BUT HOW??



WAIT! YOU'RE NOT THE LAW--WE CAN GET TOGETHER AND MAKE A DEAL!

ME AND YOU IN A DEAL---



BELIEVE ME, I CAN MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE---



LOOK, I GOT 100 GRAND HERE---
IT'S ALL YOURS--- TAKE IT!

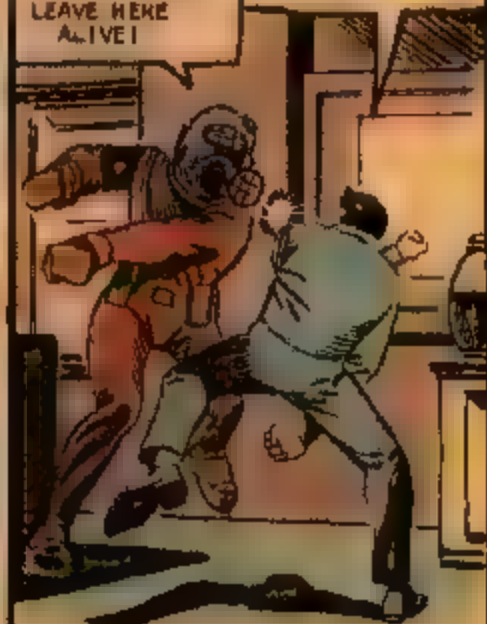


I'LL OUT YOU IN... MAKE YOU A
FULL PARTNER! JUST YOU AND ME,
WE'LL MAKE MILLIONS!



TURN ME DOWN,
WILL YA? THEN
I'LL NEVER
LEAVE HERE
ALIVE!

YOUR KILLING
DAYS ARE OVER!



WITH YOU OUT OF
THE WAY, NOBODY
WILL HAVE ANY-
THING AGAINST ME

IT'S OUT OF
YOUR HANDS,
MR. CRANE.
THE GUY I
PULLED OUT OF
THE FIRE WILL
TALK!



AND YOU WON'T BE
NEEDING THIS
PHONEY COSTUME
ANY LONGER.

YOU
D RTY...!



YOU CAN T SEND
ME TO PRISON
NOT NOW! I OWN
EVERYTHING!

YOU GOT IT
WRONG!
PRISON IS NOT
WHERE I WANT
TO SEND YOU!



IT'S THE ELECTRIC CHAIR, YOU
WORKED HARD TO PROVE YOU
DESERVE TO SIT IN IT!



THE FOOL ONLY THOUGHT OF WHAT
HE COULD GAIN---NOT WHAT IT
WOULD COST HIM IF HE FAILED---
NOW TO CALL THE POLICE!



END

ACTION-HEROES? WE GOT 'EM!!!



THUNDERBOLT

**THE
PEACEMAKER**



**the
BLUE
BEETLE**

**5 OF 'EM
TO BE EXACT...
AND THEY'RE
NOT
HALF BAD!**



**JUDO
MASTER**



**CAPTAIN
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CASTING
ANTI REVERSE
NO BACKLASH

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